

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
PA-02 PRS-01 /117 W

-----281213Z 027258 /50

R 281138Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7763

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRGGW

SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL
ENERGY PROGRAM

REF: STATE 90458

1. SUMMARY: GERMAN COMMENTARY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE AND PROMINENTLY REPORTED THE FACT THAT BOTH THE EC AND THE BONN GOVERNMENT WELCOMED CARTER'S ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM. IN ADDITION TO PRAISING CARTER'S LEAD IN THIS FIELD, THE GERMAN PUBLIC WAS COUNSELED THAT IT TOO MUST BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A STRINGENT CONSERVATION PROGRAM. MOST NEWSPAPERS POINTED OUT THE EVENTUAL ECONOMIC GAINS INHERENT IN THE PROGRAM FOR EUROPE: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES, AND AN EXPANDED MARKET FOR THE EUROPEAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. OFFICIAL FRG REACTION AS WELL AS ANY COMMENTS GLEANED FROM THE UP-COMING ENERGY CONFERENCE OF THE SPD
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(28-29 APRIL) WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

3. CALLING PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM "IMPORTANT AND COURAGEOUS," EC VICE PRESIDENT HAFFERKAMP AND EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER SAID THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE USED BY THE EC COUNTRIES AS AN EXAMPLE FOR FINALLY DRAFTING COMMON ENERGY POLICIES. IN

ADDITION, COMMENT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, WHETHER FROM THE SPD-FDP COALITION OR THE OPPOSITION CDU-CSU, HAS BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE ACCOMPANIED BY SUGGESTIONS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO ITS 1975 ENERGY PROGRAM SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON FURTHER AUSTERITY MEASURES, SUCH AS IN THE FIELD OF GASOLINE CONSUMPTION.

4. AMONG THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC FACTORS FOR THE EUROPEANS IS THE CALL FOR EXPANDED TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD OF ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES. THE GENERAL ANZEIGER OF 22 APRIL COMMENTED: "ONE REASON FOR EUROPEANS TO SHOW SYMPATHY FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S FARSIGHTED AND COURAGEOUS PROGRAM IS THAT IT PROVIDES FOR SPENDING TREMENDOUS AMOUNTS OF MONEY ON COAL RESEARCH AND ON DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY, PROJECTS FROM WHICH EUROPEANS ALSO WILL PROFIT..." IN A COMMENTARY BROADCAST BY DEUTSCHE WELLE'S INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ON 22 APRIL IT WAS STATED THAT WHILE "THE RATE OF WASTE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY LOWER THAN IN THE UNITED STATES..THE GERMANS WILL ALSO HAVE TO ECONOMIZE ON ENERGY EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE AND KEEP WORKING ON THE OPENING OF NEW ENERGY SOURCES."

5. AS A RESULT OF CARTER'S PRAISE OF GERMAN "COGENERATION" OF ENERGY, THE BONNER RUNDSCHAU IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON 22 APRIL STATED "...THAT THE U.S. INTENTION TO DRAW THE LINE ON UNFETTERED USE OF ENERGY SHOULD BE

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REASON FOR GERMANS TO THINK MORE ABOUT CONSERVING ENERGY.." AND CARTER'S PRAISE OF GERMANY "SHOULD NOT PROMPT US TO PRAISE OURSELVES. WE STILL CAN DO MUCH MORE TO USE ENERGY MORE EFFECTIVELY."

6. WITH REGARD TO THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ON THE UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, FEDERAL PRESIDENT WALTER SCHEEL SAID IN A SPEECH OPENING THE HANOVER FAIR THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE LIMITATIONS OF FUTURE USE OF ENERGY AND CHANGE ITS CURRENT HABITS. HE SAID THAT "MANKIND MUST BE THRIFTY WITH RAW MATERIALS THAT ARE GROWING SCARCE, SUCH AS OIL, AND AT THE SAME TIME ENSURE THAT MAN'S LIVING SPHERE IS NOT JEOPARDIZED--FOR INSTANCE IN UTILIZING NUCLEAR ENERGY--, AND OPEN NEW SOURCES OF RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY."

7. FOLLOWING ON THIS THEME, THE NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG, IN A DISCUSSION OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S CALL UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM TO CONTROL THE USE OF NUCLEAR FUEL, EDITORIALIZED ON 22 APRIL: "..THAT IS THE WAY TO PREVENT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WITHOUT TECHNOLOGICAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND WITHOUT DENYING THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS..THE U.S. AND THE FRG HAVE WORLDWIDE RESPONSIBILITIES, ESPECIALLY VIS-A-VIS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. EXEMPLARY (U.S.-GERMAN) PARTNERSHIP IS REQUIRED TO LIVE UP TO THESE RESPONSIBILITIES."

8. ANOTHER POSSIBLE ECONOMIC GAIN, AS REFLECTED IN MOST NEWSPAPERS, WAS THE FOLLOWING COMMENT FROM THE NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG, 22 APRIL: "AS A POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF HIGHER AMERICAN TAXES ON BIG CARS, EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE AUTOMOBILE MAKERS SEE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASING THEIR CAR EXPORTS TO THE U.S." STOESEL

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